

Message Text

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15

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AF-06 ARA-06 NEA-10 /098 W

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R 251650Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5675

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USUN 0439

C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 1094

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UNGA KS

SUBJECT: KOREAN QUESTION IN UN

REF: 1. STATE 225930

2. REYKJAVIK 0938

1. SOUTH KOREAN DEPUTY HEAD OF MFA WESTERN EUROPEAN DIVISION
CHOE KYU HA CALLED ON CHARGE SEPTEMBER 22 TO DISCUSS CONTACTS WITH
GOI FOREIGN MINISTRY. CHOE SAID FONMIN EINAR AGUSTSSON AND SEC GEN
THORSTEINSSON HAD "SURPRISINGLY" ACCEPTED DINNER INVITATION
SEPTEMBER 20 BUT HAD STUDIOUSLY AVOIDED SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION.
HOWEVER, IN FORMAL CALL MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 22, CHOE WAS TOLD BY
THORSTEINSSON THAT GOI WILL VOTE IN FAVOR OF FRIENDLY RESOLUTION
AND WILL NOT VOTE IN FAVOR OF UNFRIENDLY ONE. HOWEVER, DECISION
WHETHER TO ABSTAIN OR VOTE NEGATIVELY ON UNFRIENDLY ONE HAS
NOT YET BEEN MADE.

2. IN FURTHER CONVERSATION WITH DEPSEC GEN HELGASON, CHARGE ELICITED
COMMENT THAT FINAL GOI DECISION WOULD DEPEND ON "CIRCUMSTANCES OF
THE MOMENT" SINCE UNFRIENDLY RESOLUTION SCHEDULED TO REACH VOTE
FIRST. WE TOOK THIS TO MEAN THAT IF VOTE APPEARED VERY CLOSE, GOI
DEL MIGHT BE PERSUADED VOTE NEGATIVELY ON UNFRIENDLY RESOLUTION.

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3. POINT WAS MADE TO CHOE THAT FONMIN AGUSTSSON, DEPSEC GEN HELGASON AND MFA LEGAL ADVISOR HANS ANDERSEN ALL AT UNGA AND WILL REMAIN UNTIL OCT. 1. BECAUSE OF PRESENCE OF THESE OFFICIALS IN NEW YORK AND BECAUSE OF CLOSE FAMILY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN AGUSTSSON AND GOI UN AMB INGVI INGVARSSON, BASIC DECISION-MAKING GROUP WILL BE THERE NOT HERE. SUGGESTED STRONGLY THAT FORCEFUL REPRESENTATIONS BE MADE TO INGVARSSON WITH POSSIBLE ATTEMPT BY APPROPRIATE-LEVEL OFFICIAL TO REACH AGUSTSSON.

4. IN ABSENCE OF AGUSTSSON, CHARGE FOLLOWED UP WITH PRESENTATION TO THORSTEINSSON STRONGLY EMPHASIZING POINTS CONTAINED REF (1). ASKED IF ICELANDIC POSITION HAD NOT DETERIORATED IN VIEW FACT WE HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN TOLD GOI WOULD DEFINITELY VOTE AGAINST UNFRIENDLY RESOLUTION. THORSTEINSSON SAID "THERE MUST HAVE BEEN A MISUNDERSTANDING" SINCE IT WAS ONLY AFTER OSLO MEETING OF NORDIC FONMINS THAT POSITION HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED. SAID JAPANESE AMBASSADOR RESIDENT IN OSLO WAS ARRIVING REYKJAVIK SEPTEMBER 29 PRESUMABLY TO MAKE STRONG REPRESENTATIONS ON THIS ISSUE. DURING RECENT VISIT BY THORSTEINSSON TO TOKYO, JAPANESE OFFICIALS HAD HAMMERED AT THIS ONE.

5. COMMENT: WE CAN ONLY CONCLUDE GOI POSITION WEAKENED WHEN AGUSTSSON FOUND HIMSELF ISOLATED AT OSLO MEETING. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES, RECOMMEND URGENT HIGH-LEVEL AND FORCEFUL APPROACH TO INGVARSSON AND POSSIBLY TO AGUSTSSON IN NEW YORK.
MARTIN

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